

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /072 W

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R 081025Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6141

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG VIEW OF US-GDR RELATIONS

REF: USBERLIN 1756

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS HAS PASSED WITHOUT MUCH PUBLIC COMMENT IN THE FRG, WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD AVOID ANY STEPS VIS-A-VIS THE GDR WHICH COULD CREATE PROBLEMS IN US-FRG RELATIONS. THIS SUGGESTS THAT OUR EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN AND THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE GDR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO BEAR IN MIND THE
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SENSITIVITIES OF THE WEST GERMANS AND WEST BERLINERS.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND GDR HAS PASSED WITH A MINIMUM OF PUBLIC ATTENTION IN WEST GERMANY. APART FROM A CRITICAL EDITORIAL IN DIE WELT IN SEPTEMBER (BONN A-486), WHICH ASSERTED THAT THE STEP EFFECTIVELY SEALED THE DIVISION OF GERMANY, NEGATIVE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT. THIS UNEXCITED ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF WEST GERMANS WAS PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED SINCE SO MANY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UK AND FRANCE, HAD PRECEDED US TO EAST BERLIN.

3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR FRG FOREIGN OFFICE AND INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIALS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF US-GDR RELATIONS ON THE FRG, THE FRG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUS IN TELLING US THAT THEY FORESAW NO PROBLEM ARISING BETWEEN THE FRG AND US OVER OUR SETTING UP IN BUSINESS IN EAST BERLIN. HOWEVER, THESE CONVERSATIONS DID PRODUCE A SERIES OF LIGHT CAVEATS AND EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE FOR A CAREFULLY CONDUCTED US POLICY TOWARD THE GDR FROM OUR INTERLOCUTORS. THEY SEEMED TO BE HOPEFUL THAT WE AVOID ANY STEPS IN EAST BERLIN OR IN DEALING WITH THE GDR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON THAT COULD BE USED BY THE OPPOSITION, THE WEST BERLINERS OR THE SPRINGER PRESS TO PORTRAY THE US-GDR RELATIONSHIP AS DEVELOPING IN A WAY HARMFUL TO US-FRG TIES OR TO THE POSITION OF WEST BERLIN.

4. OUR SOURCES GAVE SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF AREAS WHERE THEY THOUGHT, IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC CONTROVERSY IN THE FRG, WE MIGHT EXERCISE PARTICULAR CARE.

A. ANY ACTIONS, SUCH AS ATTENDANCE AT A GDR MILITARY PARADE OR CEREMONY IN EAST BERLIN, THAT COULD IMPLY A RETREAT FROM OUR VIEW OF THE SPECIAL STATUS OF BERLIN. WE WERE TOLD THAT CRITICAL QUESTIONS HAD BEEN POSED IN THE BUNDESTAG CONCERNING FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS' ACCEPTING THE SMALL MILITARY CEREMONY AT HIS HANDING OVER HIS LETTER OF ACCREDITATION IN EAST

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BERLIN.

B. USE OF TERMINOLOGY IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OR STATEMENTS THAT COULD IMPLY ACCEPTANCE OF EAST BERLIN AS CAPITAL OF THE GDR.

C. TERMINOLOGY ON THE FRG, E.G., IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST IN WASHINGTON, THAT IMPLIES ANY DEROGATION OF THE

FRG'S STATUS AS THE PRIMARY GERMAN STATE IN US EYES.

D. ANY WEAKENING OF THE ROLE OF THE THREE WESTERN
AMBASSADORS IN BONN VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN
EAST BERLIN ON MATTERS CONCERNING BERLIN AND GERMANY AS
A WHOLE.

E. ANY EXPANSION OF GDR COMPETENCE IN THE AREA OF
ACCESS TO BERLIN.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10 NIC-01 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

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5. ONE SENIOR FONOFF REP TOLD US THAT THERE WAS ONE FURTHER POINT OF CONCERN TO FONMIN GENSCHER PERSONALLY. IT WAS THAT THREE POWER-FRG CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN MATTERS SHOULD CONTINUE AS IN THE PAST IN THE BONN GROUP. THE FONOFF WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT IN EAST BERLIN OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON BERLIN MATTERS INASMUCH AS THE FRG PERMANENT MISSION DOES NOT RECEIVE ITS INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE FONOFF BUT FROM THE CHANCELLERY. OUR SOURCE STRESSED THAT THIS VIEW WAS NOT DESIGNED TO RESTRICT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND US REPRESENTATIVES IN EAST BERLIN WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSE. IT WAS SIMPLY TO KEEP THE QUADRIpartite CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN WHERE THE FRG FONOFF THOUGHT THEY BELONGED, I.E., IN BONN.

6. ALL OF OUR SOURCES EXPRESSED THE STRONG HOPE FOR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS, BOTH IN BONN AND IN EAST BERLIN, ON ALL QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT IMPINGE ON THE US-FRG RELATIONSHIP OR CAUSE PUBLIC DIFFICULTIES IN WEST BERLIN OR THE FRG.

7. COMMENT. MUCH OF THE ABOVE IS SELF-EVIDENT, AND WE HAVE ALREADY ASSURED OUR SOURCES THAT OUR EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE KEENLY AWARE OF THE VARIOUS FACTORS. WE ARE REPORTING THE ABOVE TO SHOW HOW POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE THE US-GDR RELATIONSHIP IS IN THE EYES OF BONN OFFICIALDOM. OUR EAST BERLIN EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES WILL OBVIOUSLY BE VIEWED WITH A MICROSCOPE BY WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN OBSERVERS WHO WILL BE SEEKING EVEN MINOR SIGNS OF A WEAKENING OF THE US LEGAL POSITION ON BERLIN AND GERMANY AS A WHOLE. ANY IMAGINED SLIPS ON OUR PART WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT IN PUBLIC OUTCRIES IN THE FRG AND, MORE ESPECIALLY, IN WEST BERLIN WHERE THE SENSITIVITIES ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES IN EAST BERLIN WILL BE MOST ACUTE. THIS SORT OF NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE WEST GERMANS AND WEST BERLINERS WILL PERHAPS ABATE EVENTUALLY, BUT THIS WILL TAKE TIME. THE FIRST FEW MONTHS MAY BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. OUR EAST BERLIN EMBASSY IS GOING TO BE OPERATING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TWO GOLDFISH BOWLS, THE FIRST THE USUAL ONE SURROUNDING US EMBASSIES IN COMMUNIST CAPITALS, THE OTHER THE UNIQUE ONE CREATED BY THE COMPLEX OF ISSUES ARISING FROM US-FRG-WEST BERLIN INTERRELATIONSHIPS OVER BERLIN.

HILLENBRAND

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